ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Approbation the following Papers have met with, and the continu'd Demand for them, are ſufficient Reaſons for thus collecting them together. Which is done with the greater Pleaſure, as it is indulging the virtuous Reſentments of an injur'd People; and as it is cheriſhing that Honeſt Love of Liberty in my Countrymen, upon the Continuance of which the Good of the whole Community depends; and the Loſs of which muſt be attended with the Loſs of every thing elſe that is valuable.

I need ſay nothing of the unknown Authors; the general Applauſe prevents all private Commendation: And indeed, to the true Patriot, the Pleaſure of doing Good, is ſuperior to any Praiſe reſulting from it. However, it is ſufficient for the Publick, that at the ſame time they know themſelves ſerv'd, it is univerſally conjectur'd to be by the Ableſt Pens, as well as by ſome of the Greateſt and Honeſteſt Men in the Kingdom.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Collection is confined to the Introductory Letters *in the* London Journal *upon* Political Subjects, *which are brought down to the* 17th *of last Month inclusive; from which Time the single Papers continue in Sale. The other* Introductions, *which I doubt not will be thought equally diverting as these are useful, will be publish'd in the same Manner, in a few Days.*

BRITISH MUSEUM 8 53 JUL

P.P. - London. - London Journal

A Collection of LETTERS *to the Author of the* London Journal.

NUMB. I.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

THE World has often been ruled by Men, who were themselves ruled by the worst Qualities, and most sordid Views. *The Prince*, says a great *French* Politician, *governs the People, and Interest governs the Prince.*

The Manner by which Men climb to Greatness, makes no Difference in the Respect paid them by the People: A King, who makes his Way to a Throne by the Means of Blood and Treachery, meets with the same Incense which

is presented to the Virtuous Monarch, who comes to Empire honestly by Choice, or quietly by Descent; and a Minister who gets his Staff by Sycophancy, and keeps it by Lies and Oppression, is not less ador'd than the Statesman who owes his Exaltation to great Abilities and pure Merit.

'Hence it comes to pass that few Men care how they Rise in the World, so they do but Rise: They know that Success expiates all Rogueries, and never misses Reverence; and that he who was called Villain, or Murderer in the Race, is often christened *SAINT* or *HERO* at the Goal. The present Possession of Money or Power, is always a ready Patent for Respect and Submission. He that gets a Hundred Thousand Pounds by a Bubble, that is, by selling a Bag of Wind to his credulous Countrymen, is a greater Idol in every Coffee-House in Town, than he who is worth but Ninety Thousand, tho' acquired by honest Trading or ingenious Arts, which profit Mankind, and bring Credit to his Country: And thus every *South-Sea* Cub shall, by the sole Merit of his *MILLION*, vie for Respect and Followers with any Lord in the Land, tho' it should strangely happen, as it sometimes does, that his Lordship's Virtues and Parts ennoble his Title and Quality. It matters not, whether your Father was a Tinker, and you his worthy Son a *Broker* or a *Sharper*, provided you be but a *South-Sea Man*; if you are but that, the whole Earth is your humble Servant.

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The Behaviour therefore of Mankind having shewn that they think Money the *CHIEF GOOD*, it is no wonder that Pride follows Riches; and that he who bears a heavy Purse, bears likewise a stately Brow; when he sees all Men adore him, it is very natural for him to adore himself, and to exalt his own Head in Proportion, as others debase theirs.

At present, nothing further is necessary towards getting an Estate, that is, Merit and Respect, than a little Money, much Roguery, and many Lies. With what Indignation have I beheld a Peer of the Realm, courting the good Graces of a little Haberdasher with great Cash, and begging a few Shares in a Bubble which the honourable *Goodman Bever* had just then invented to cheat his Fellow-Citizens.

Whenever I see one of these over-grown rich Men, I consider him in his former Station, and in his present Station, and respect him according to the Spirit which I see him in: If I find that he forgets what he *was*, I always forget what he *is*, and put him in mind of his former self.

There is a certain Tallow-Chandler, who is deep in Stocks, and is grown a great Man by Virtue of his Gettings; but the poor Man is only Rich, he has not One other Endowment about him, unless we except his memorable Quietness under certain Garniture, which his Wife has made bold to plant beneath his Hat. I observed this same *Upstart* sitting lately at a Coffee-House in the Midst of a great Circle of

People, who were worſhipping him becauſe he was Richer than they : I knew the great Revolution of the Man's Fortune, and his great little Worth, and ſo going up to him, Mr. *Swellwell*, ſays I, *I want Half a Dozen Pound of Farthing Candles ; I know there are good ones at your Shop : I wiſh you would ſtep Home with me, and then I am ſure I ſhall have the beſt.*

He told me (after ſome reſentful Wriggles in his Seat) that his Name was *Smellwell* ; but that he kept no Shop. *Godſo*, ſays I, Mr. *Smellwell*, *I ask you a Thouſand Pardons ; I had quite forgot : I have heard indeed that you have pull'd off your Frock, and put on your Chariot.*

But exalted Boobies being below Satyr, I ſhall here only conſider a little the Miſchiefs brought upon the Publick by the Projects which bring them their Wealth. It is melancholy to conſider that Power follows Property, when we conſider at the ſame Time into what vile Hands that Property is fallen, and by what vile Means, even by Bubbles and direct Cheating.

Of our Second-hand Bubbles I blame not one more than another, their Name ſhews their Nature. The GREAT BUBBLE of All ſet them an Example, and began firſt. By it, immenſe Fortunes have been got to particular Men, moſt of them obſcure and unheard of; happy for their own Characters, and for the Nations Trade, if they had ſtill remained ſo. I hope our All is not yet at the Mercy of Sharpers; ignorant mercenary

Shar-

Sharpers: but I ſhould be glad to ſee it prov'd that it will not be ſo. Are we a Trading Nation? Where is our Trade? Conſult the Books of Export; number the Ships that go laden out of the River, and the Stagnation and Ruin of Trade will ſtand confeſſed. There's one Comfort remaining to the City of *London*, from the miſerable Loſs of that Trade which rendred that City ſo long the Mark and Envy of Nations. In Caſe of a great Froſt, our Ships will make as good Fires as *Newcaſtle* Coals.

Do our People and our Poor ſubſiſt by Manufacture? Where is our Manufacture? Even at almoſt an utter Stand; while a few are getting Millions here in Town, many want Work and Bread in all the Trading Towns thro' the Nation; and perſonal Proſperity is built from the Ruins of the Publick. I ſhall trouble you further upon this Subject in my next; and am,

SIR,

Your's, &c.

NUMB. II.

To Owen ap Williams, *Esq*; *Author of the* London-Journal.

SIR,

EVERY *Religion* which refuses to tolerate other *Religions*, charges it self, by so doing, with *Tyranny* and *Imposture*; for no *Religion* can be *true* that is not *merciful*, nor *merciful* if it punishes Men for their *Faith*.

There are but few *Societies*, Sir, that look with a kind Eye upon each other; even where they have not, for their Basis or Chief End, the Acquisition and Preservation of Riches and Dominion, which are the most jealous Things in Nature, as they are the hardest to come at. They will be piquing themselves upon point of Reputation, and some will be striving to appear great, by representing another as little: All *Clubs*, whether they be *Worldly* or *Ghostly*, have their *Rival Clubs*, and their Love of themselves makes them hate one another, tho' it must be owned that your *Holy Clubs* have been ever the most Bitter and Bloody of all others.

But it has so happen'd, that at present a great Share of our Zeal and Violence for the *Church*, is changed into a Zeal for the Stocks; and the Reason is plain, there is now a-days more to be got by the *Alley* than the *Altar*; so that whenever you hear a Sermon, extorted out of the Gospel,

Gospel, against the *South-Sea*, you may swear the *Parson* has got nothing there.

But to return to my Discourse upon *Clubs*: If we would preserve all the distinct Societies in the Commonwealth, whether they be for *Speculations* and *Mysteries*, or for *Trade*, or for *Physick*, or for *Arts* and *Sciences*: I say, if we would preserve them safe, and independent of each other, we must not endow one with Privileges destructive of all the rest. In the Business of *Companies* and *Stock-Jobbing*, for Example, if you do not keep an equal Hand, your Partiality will infallibly beget *Persecution* on one Hand, and *Oppression* on the other; *Interest* teaches all Men *Zeal*, *Stock-Jobbers* as well as *Churchmen*; and that *Zeal*, if you put a Knife in his Hand, will be sporting with Misery, and dabbling in Blood.

All Men, as I humbly conceive, have an equal Right to *cheat* the Publick, tho' every Man, if you would let him, would keep the whole Advantage of Cheating it to himself: It is nothing to the Nation, whether it be bubbled by the *North* or the *South*; but it is of much Importance to Mr. *South*, and Mr. *North*, which of them shall be the happy Man, and the *privileged Bubbler*. If the People will be buying Bags of Wind at a great Price, it matters not a Farthing who is the Seller, provided that to make the Market more plausible, he has got a *Licensed Bag*; one Man's blown Bladder is as good as another's, and it is only Arts and great Names that make the Difference.

We

We have at preſent in this Land, a great Number of *Wind-Sellers*, who are daily forming themſelves into Societies, and taking in Subſcriptions for improving and carrying on the Trade and Myſtery of *Wind*: This *Wind* is of ſeveral *Climates*, according to the ſeveral Fancies or Gueſſes of the *Projectors*. Some have choſen for their Portion a large Region of Wind, beyond Sea, towards the South of *America*, and they have talk'd many Years of ſending thither great Numbers of Ships for the Company, on this profitable and *ſubſtantial* Trade; but the Voyage is ſo long, that tho' the Lading be *exceeding light*, yet I do not find that any of the ſaid Ships have yet arrived in our River, or perhaps they have not got out of it. Others go *Northward* for their Wind to *Germany*, *Greenland*, or the *Orcades*, where there is Store of *rare bleak Winds*, at *reaſonable Rates*: Others again, who love a warmer Sun, have invented their Wind in certain *American Iſlands*, and theſe laſt boaſt that their Wind is the moſt gainful Wind of all.

Now all theſe worthy Gentlemen agree in this, they ſell their Wind before it is caught; *for*, ſay they, we cannot *Purchaſe*, nor *Manufacture our Wind*, *without ſome ready Money*; and ſo they ſell you a ſwinging Parcel of *wild Wind* for a ſmall Price, and you are to be put in Poſſeſſion of it, as ſoon as 'tis *caught* nd *tamed*.

Now

Now all these *fair Dealers* were going on and getting their Thousands by their said Trades, till a certain great *Wind Company* in Town, who wou'd engross the whole Commodity to themselves, took a cruel Resolution to crush these their Brethren and Rivals: In order to this, they did not pretend, that their Wind was a Bit better than any other Wind in the Alley: No, their Consciences would not let them go that length; so they only alledged, that their *Bags* were *Stamp'd Bags*, and their *Wind* was *Excis'd Wind*; whereas, said they, all the other Corporations of *Wind-Merchants* are no better than *Smuglers*. This Plea was allow'd to be good by the *Bench*, (*for the Thing was try'd at a Quarter Sessions*) and so the Sale of all other Wind was strictly prohibited.

Here then is the Beginning of the *Persecution* in the *Alley*. The *Establish'd Jobbers* have pronounced all that Jobb upon *private Judgment*, Interlopers and *Fanaticks*, and called upon the *Secular Arm* to crush them, *else*, say they, *this our Craft* and our *Wind will be set at nought*; and hereupon they all cried with one Accord, *Great is the* SOUTH WIND.

The *Dissenting Bubbles*, being all thus doom'd *Schismaticks*, are in a gasping Condition, expostulating and complaining, that in a free Country, and a projecting Age, all the ingenious *Refiners* and *Sellers* of *Wind*, are not equally *tolerated*.

Say they, very *judiciously*, and very *truly*, *We are all agreed in FUNDAMENTALS*, namely, *in*

 raising

raising Millions out of Nothing, and in *sacrificing all other Trade and Manufactures to the Trade and Mystery of WIND*; and yet we are *persecuted by Men who deal in nothing else but WIND*.

I am, Sir, &c.

NUMB. III.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

I Must beg you, for the Benefit of the present Age, as well as for the Advantage of Posterity, to allow me a little more Conversation with you, about the unhappy Circumstances of my Countrymen, who are engag'd in the Great Affairs of *Exchange-Alley*: How easily are Men bewitch'd into *Ruin* and *Misery*; the Stocks continue falling, and many Thousands are, by the Hopes of *Excessive Gain*, reduc'd to *absolute Beggary*. *High Expectations* and *Great Plenty* are succeeded by *general Diffidence*, *prevailing Fears*, *Bankruptcy* and *Poverty*.

It is dismal and mournful to behold the melancholy desponding Looks which one every where meets with, both in the Center and Suburbs of the City. The Distraction, Apprehensions, and Desolation that at present reign in the Hearts and Circumstances of the People, are indeed almost universal; all Ranks of Men suffer. It is, however, to be observ'd, that many

ny of those who so largely contributed to undo Trade and Manufacture, are themselves undone by the Stocks. Men have, as it were, madly clubbed to destroy their Country, and themselves; nor does this their own woful Fate excuse or extenuate their Fault. Their own Misery is the Effect of their Blindness; but the Publick is not hurt thro' Ignorance. The Overthrow of Trade, and the Discouragement of Industry, are Crimes which they have committed with their Eyes open.

People have almost ventur'd without a Chance for getting; they had a hundred to one against them, their principal Dependance in many Cases being upon the Faith and Honesty of a Knot of Knaves, who being under no Restraint, but the Fear of Hanging, are not under any Restraint at all, while they have so many Thousands in their Pockets: Alas, if a Traitor has but Money enough, What room has he to fear an Ax or a Halter! I could give Instances, but I spare the present Generation.

I was yesterday in the *Alley*, that infamous Spot of Earth, where a few Miscreants thrive at the Expence of their Country, and Treachery preys upon Credulity; there I was shewn an unhappy Man (*amongst many others*) with this Account of him; He had a good Estate in the Country, which brought him in a plentiful Income of *Fifteen hundred Pounds a Year*, but this did not satisfy him; he wanted to be worth a Million, and his Wife to be a Dutchess; it

cut the Hearts both of him and her to behold *little prim Prick'd-ear'd Citizens* wallowing in Luxury, and boasting their *Hundred Thousands*, while they themselves, who were People of Breeding, and had never stood behind Compters, were forced to sit down with their original Fortune, which only afforded them ENOUGH: He therefore turn'd his whole Estate into Money, and brought his whole Money into the *Alley*; and behold the Effect! Two Months ago he had *Forty five thousand Pounds*, but it's now all gone, and *Ten thousand Pounds* into the Bargain; and all the miserable Man has left is, *a Wife and Seven Children.*

STOCK-JOBBING is the accursed Art of preying upon one another, and of *Cheating* and being *Cheated* by Consent. One cannot *get* in this abominable Mystery, what another does not *lose*; and a Bargain struck between Two Stock-Jobbers, is only a Trial of Skill, which of them Two shall prove the luckier Knave: But whoever gets, the Nation certainly loses; and all Ranks of Men engaged, run into real Expence and Luxury, without real Wealth; and the Kingdom becomes most prodigal, when it is most decaying; which is also a Sign and Behaviour of particular Bankrupts, when they are first becoming such.

This Nation cannot, nor never did thrive, but by Industry and Trading, *both of which are much at a stand for the present*, by the ingenuous and publick-spirited Management of Stock-

Stock-Jobbers, and of those who abet them for the sake of going snacks. A Potent Body of Men! And yet in spight of both, the Credit of Jobbing seems expiring, and the People, at last, seem appriz'd of a mercileſs Conſpiracy, to deceive and plunder a free, believing Nation, to enrich a vile Tribe of Stock-Jobbers. *Thank God*, they want the Arbitrary Engines of *France* to ſupport Projects borrow'd from *France*: We are yet free; and I am told that *Jack Ketch* has very powerful and very plauſible Hopes of making his Fortune this Winter, and of ſtripping thoſe who would ſtrip the Kingdom. I muſt own, it would be very natural, and not unpleaſing to one poſſeſs'd with the honeſt Principles of Liberty and Juſtice, to ſee the *Spoilers* of a free People *ſpoiled* by the Hangman.

I am, &c.

NOTA BENE.

NUMB. IV.

To the Author of the London-Journal.

SIR,

THE greateſt *Empires*, and the mightieſt *Stock Jobbers*, have frequently riſen from ſmall Beginnings. The Kingdom of *Macedon* was but a deſpicable Kingdom, till *Philip* and *Alexander* came to be *DIRECTORS* of it; nor were Sir ———, and Sir ———, at preſent two potent Emperors, of a more noble Original than the Kingdom of *Macedon*; tho' they are, in this our Day, Names of much greater Importance, than thoſe of *Alexander* the Great, and his Father *Philip*; Nay, it is confidently aſſerted by ſome conſiderable Antiquaries, that none of the *Roman Emperors*, tho' often baſely born, nor any of the *Heathen Gods*, however diſhoneſtly begot, could boaſt an humbler Beginning than our great *SIR J —— N, the famous Heathen God, and Cobler of Stocks*, who from an humble Stall, the inglorious Scene of his Infancy, by *Figures* and *Conjuring*, brought a whole People to *Enrich* and *Adore* him, at the Expence of their *Eſtates*, and their Senſes.

But as it happened to *Cæſar*, *Alexander*, and ſeveral other of the principal *Directors* and *Diſturbers* of the Affairs of Mankind, that they have been often ſnatched away by uncourteous and

and disasterous Destiny, and their Estates have suffered amazing Revolutions; even so it is justly apprehended that many, alas! too many of our *Dictators in Stock*, and *absolute Monarchs* of the *ALLEY* will fall, or rather rise, by the *basest Blow of Fate*. This considerable Comfort will, however, attend them, that they will dye *nearer Heaven*, than ever they liv'd, or ever they will live after they are dead; for it is written, *That the Spirit of a BEAST goeth downward*.

There are already several mournful Presages of their approaching Doom, and their *evil Genius* does already haunt them. Whereever they go, they are pursued by the *Mobb* and the *Ravens*, the former hoot them on every Side, and the latter croak over their Heads; at the Name of *De Wit* they tremble, and at the Name of *Jack Ketch*, they wax Pale. The sight of *Timber* puts them into Agonies; and when they enter into a Door, they shut fast their Eyes, from the dread of beholding a *Post*: A *dry Salter* is their Aversion, for lo! he dealeth in *Hemp*, and they sweat at the Sight of a *Sessions Paper*. If a Man, having Business with them, pats one of them upon the Shoulder, he starts, looks wild, and pulls out his Purse, as much as to say, *Take this Bribe, and let me run away*.

It is thought, that having *ruined* all Trade, and *sanctify'd* all Knavery, they were in hopes *for filthy self Ends*, to have utterly ruined

Mr. *Ketch's*

Mr. *Ketch*'s Trade also; and had their raw Empire been a little eſtabliſhed, probably they might have ſucceeded, and ſtopped the honeſt Courſe of our Gallows, as effectually as they have ſtopped the Courſe of our Navigation, and our Induſtry. But *Jack* being a diſcerning Fellow, and wiſely foreſeeing that what Men are born to, will *neceſſarily* befal them, is going to ſet up his Equipage as well as they, and hopes to maintain it more honeſtly out of their Spoils, than they do theirs out of the Spoils of a ſeduced People.

Such is the woful Plight they are in, ſuch the terrible Proſpect before them; Money will not do, a whole Nation may be *betray'd*, but a whole Nation cannot be bribed: When the People have been up, *a Million* has not been able to ſave *one Throat*.

To ſhew them that their Fate begins to operate in good earneſt, their Noſes are daily put in Mind of what their Necks may ſoon expect from the Publick Juſtice. This is an unlucky Omen, for there is ſuch a ſtrict Confederacy between theſe two Members, that they ſeldom ſuffer ſeparately, and in ſome Diſeaſes, I am told, never.

Theſe Princely Jobbers feel likewiſe frequent Marks of the Peoples Favour at their *other End*, and receive *ſenſible Warnings* from their very Poſteriors. But their great and principal Monitor is the *Noſe*, which by the many *Tweaks* and *Convulſions* it feels, foretels its miſerable

and

and short Duration; and when that is gone, will the Persecution cease? Verily nay! Not satiated with demolishing the comely *Steeple* of the Face, it will rage against the rest of the Fabrick, and make Martyrs of Member after Member, till it has not left one Muscle upon another. *Woe be to you Stock-Jobbers and Traytors; you are exalted into Chariots, but you shall be cast down into Carts.*

The greatest Felicity that can, at present, attend a *Director* of a *Bubble*, is to have ne'er a *Nose* at all, or to be blessed with a short one; for then *Revenge* not meeting a sufficient Handle in the *Front*, will naturally fall upon the *Rear*, where tho' its Marks may prove *black* and *blue*, and very grievous to be born, yet will they remain hid, and consequently unknown to all but those who saw them given; whereas a *Pinch* in the *Snout* proclaims its own Infamy to all that behold it, and is Matter of *Jeer* as well as *Sorrow*.

Now, to those Great *Heroes* in *Stock*, who are neither blessed with a *short Nose*, nor ne'er a *Nose*, I would humbly propose a Piece of Advice: I do not pretend to advise them to run away from their Roguery, and do honestly by the Publick; *No, no such Matter*: I shall advise them to nothing but what is possible: *Let them but soak their Noses thrice a Day in Oyl*, and it will enable them to beguile the Gripe of the hardest Mastiff in the *Alley*.

N. B. *This Receipt will not do for their Necks*, which I do not pretend to ensure. *God forbid* I should have any Share in stopping or disappointing the due Course of Justice.

But as Men are never *hanged* by the *Nose*, I am only proposing an Expedient to make it endure pulling with the more Ease; and I hope I shall not for this my Ingenuity be blamed, as if I was partial to the *Noses* of these *Great* and *Wealthy* Men, any more than I am to their Persons. The whole Secret of my Kindness lies here: I hate to see disfigured Faces; and if every *Directing Money Monarch*, who has play'd the Rogue, carried a Purple Nose about him in Token thereof; I could not, without great Offence to my self, do my Business at the *S--- S--- House*.

But now, to conclude: Tho' many *Powerful Princes*, and *Almighty Stock-Jobbers*, have risen to be so from small, and often sudden Beginnings; and tho' the Death of the latter will, in all Probability, have this in common with the Death of the former, that they will die in *perfect Health*; yet (*which is wonderful*) the World has paid a Regard to *these Princes* very different to that which it pays to *Stock-Jobbers*. I never heard, that an *Imperial Knave* received a *Kick* in the *Breech*, or a *Twang* by the *Nose*; whereas it often happens, that the *Hams of our most Illustrious Stock-Jobbers* are, by such ugly

Usage, render'd unfit to carry them; and then their *Noses* look as if they were *parboil'd*.

Enquiring into the Causes of this unequal Treatment of Men, who are by different Means equal *Enemies* to *Mankind*, I find them to be these two: In the first Place, none of our *Clergy* have yet appear'd so abandon'd as to found *Stock-Jobbing* upon *Divine Right*: And, in the second Place, there is scarce a *Director*, either of the *South* or the *North* BUBBLE, who possesses One Great or Good Quality, to prevent or lessen the *General Detestation* of Mankind.

I am, SIR, &c.

NUMB. V.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

AS I have heard, with Concern, the Report of our being in Danger of losing *Gibraltar*, lately reviv'd; so I had no small Pleasure to see, in the Generality of the People, a just Sense of the great Importance of that Place to the Trade and Security of *England*.

All Men, in truth, shew their Opinion of it, by the Fears they express about it; and if we set aside (as unworthy of mention) a few *prostitute Hirelings*, who go about Coffee-Houses to drop, as far as they dare, stupid and villanous Reasons for giving it up; I say, excepting such a contemptible few, I defy those, who for vile Ends, or to make good vile Bargains, would gladly have it surrender'd, to pick out of all the People of *England*, One honest, rational, and disinterested Man to concur with them in it.

Thank God, in Spite of the Folly of *Parties*, and the Arts of *Betrayers*, we see in all Men a steady, warm, and unanimous Spirit for the Preservation of *Gibraltar*; and I hope to see shortly the Time when we shall, with the same Frankness and Unity, exercise our Reason and our Eyesight in other Matters, in which we are at present misled, either by Infatuation or false Interest.

There

There are two Things which surprize me in the many Apprehensions we have had about *Gibraltar*: The first is, the great Diffidence manifested by such Fears: Men must be far gone in Distrust, before they could come to suspect that their Superiors could ever grow so much as indifferent about a Place of such Consequence to their Country; and to suppose them capable of giving it up, is to suppose them capable of giving up *Portsmouth*, nay, *England* it self. Such Suppositions must therefore be unjust, and the Heighth of Ignorance or Spleen. Can it be imagined, that Men of Honour would forfeit their Reputation, Patriots sacrifice a Bulwark of their Country, or wise Men venture their Heads, by such a traiterous, shameful and dangerous Step?

But, say some, Perhaps it will be *suffer'd* to be taken *by Surprize*, and then all the Blame will only rest upon some obscure Officer, who may easily be given up or kept out of the way, while those who contriv'd the Roguery, and felt the Reward of it, will be as loud in their Resentments, as others who love their Country well enough to grieve for its Disgrace or its Losses.

I know, indeed, all this has been said more than once, and some plausible Circumstances urged, to shew that it was not absolutely groundless. But, alas, what a poor Plot would here be! A Farce of Treachery and Nonsense, visible to the weakest of Mankind, and only fit

to raise Hatred and Contempt towards the wretched Framers of it: This would be to deal with us, as with a Nation of Ideots, blind, insensible, who can neither see Day-light, nor feel Injuries, nor return insolent Usage. No, no, we are not as yet to be hoodwink'd by such thin Schemes. We can ask, if need were, a few plain Questions, which would easily puzzle such feeble Politicians; but at present we have no Occasion.

All this, however, shews, how much we are apt to suspect foul Play in this, and many other Cases of the like Nature; nor shall I now maliciously enquire, to what prevailing Cause such Distrust is to be ascrib'd.

Another Thing at which I am apt to wonder is, that considering how much our Credit is concern'd to clear our selves from the Charge of any base Purpose of being willing that *Gibraltar* should be given away, we have not yet done it, at least in any publick and satisfactory Manner. The mistaken People will say, and have said, that our Silence is a Confession of our Guilt; and that if their Censures and Suppositions had not been just, it was in our Power publickly to have confuted and remov'd them; neither of which we have done, but suffer'd *them* to remain under painful Fears, and *our selves* under the Suspicion of neither regarding their Interest, nor their Ease, nor our own Credit.

Why did you not, say they, tell all the World how much you were wronged, and belyed

lyed in a Declaration, said to be the *Regent's of France*, which expreſly aſſerted, that a Bargain was made to give away *Gibraltar*? Why did you not demonſtrate, that you were at leaſt as willing to preſerve your own Towns, as to conquer Countries for other People, who are remarkable for doing you as little Service as they poſſibly can? Why did you ſuffer it to be ſuggeſted with the leaſt Colour of Probability, that you would rather throw away what was your own, than not procure for *Foreign Allies* at *your* Expence, what was none of theirs? Why do we fight, why conquer, if we muſt thus condeſcend to implore the Vanquiſh'd graciouſly to grant Peace to us the *Conquerors*, for which we will humbly pay them with part of our Dominions? And how came Foreign States, *moſt of them Slaves*, to be more in your Favour than *old England*, which is a Nurſery of Freemen?

All theſe are malicious Queſtions, tho' I hope groundleſs; but as they are propos'd by many Thouſands of his Majeſty's Liege Subjects, in a modeſt and ſerious Way, methinks it would be a ſeaſonable Piece of Diſcretion and good Policy, to prove them groundleſs.

For *God's ſake* let us anſwer, if we can anſwer; and if our Innocence is to be ſhewn, as no doubt it is, let it be ſhewn; it will not even be enough, that *Gibraltar* is never given up, but we ought to purge our ſelves from the Imputation of ever having entertain'd ſo criminal an Inten-

Intention. If we can do this, it will recover us some Part of the Credit and Confidence we have loſt by not doing of it. I therefore hope, and humbly propoſe, that we may ſoon ſee ſome able and ſagacious Pen, inſtead of making *Odes* for us, make *Apologies* for us; which *Heaven of its infinite Mercy grant*, &c.

In the mean Time, permit me, *your patient Reader*, to give here three unanſwerable Reaſons why *Gibraltar* cannot either be given up or taken:

Firſt, becauſe *Secretary Grimaldo* ſays it.

Secondly, it would make *South-Sea Stock* fall; and

Thirdly and laſtly, We have wiſe and honeſt Governors.

I am, Sir, &c.

Gordon

NUMB. VI.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

THE terrible Circumstance of our *French* Neighbours, under the Plague in some Places, expecting it in others, and dreading it in all, is a loud Warning to us, to take all Expedients and possible Precautions against such a formidable Calamity.

We have already had, and still have a Contagion of another Sort, more universal, and less merciful than that at *MARSEILLES*; the latter has destroy'd, we are told, about sixty thousand Lives; ours has done worse, it has render'd a much greater Number of Lives miserable, who want but the Sickness to finish their Calamity; either by rendering it complete, or by putting an end to them and that together.

Indeed, had the Alternative been offer'd us, half a Year ago, I think it would have been a Symptom of Wisdom in us, to have chosen rather to fall by the Hand of *God*, than by the execrable Arts of Stock-Jobbers: That we are fallen, is a sorrowful Truth, not only visible in every Face you meet, but in the Destruction of our Trade, the Glory and Riches of our Nation, and the Livelihood of the Poor.

But *Complaining* does not mend the Matter; and yet what ſenſible Heart can avoid *Complaining*, when he hears his *dear Country*, a *whole Country*, a *potent Nation*, a *Nation* happy in its *Climate*, in its *Prince*, and in its *Laws*, groaning under mighty Evils, brought upon it by mean and contemptible Hands, and apprehending Evils ſtill more mighty? This gives Bitterneſs to a human Spirit, tho' it ſuffers no otherwiſe than by Sympathy: Is there no way left of doing our ſelves Juſtice, and has the Dearth of our Proſperity extinguiſh'd all Senſe of our Injuries?

'Tis true, it is both prudent and religious in private Perſons, to ſtifle the Notions of Revenge, and calmly to expect Reparation from God and the Law: But *Jealouſy* and *Revenge*, in a whole People, when they are abuſed, are laudable and politick Virtues; without which they will never thrive, never be eſteem'd: How far they are to carry their Reſentments, I do not pronounce. The Meaſures of it muſt be determin'd by Circumſtances; but ſtill, keen Reſentment ought to be ſhewn, or ſome Puniſhment, or Puniſhments, inflicted: When the Dignity, or Intereſt, of a Nation is at Stake, *Mercy* may be *Cruelty*.

To this Spirit of *Jealouſy* and *Revenge*, was formerly the *Roman*, and now the *Venetian* Commonwealths, beholden for the long Preſervation of their Liberty; and Liberty will never ſubſiſt long where they are not: For if

any Crimes againſt the Publick may be committed with Impunity, Men will be tempted to commit the greateſt of all; I mean that of making themſelves Maſters of the State; and where Liberty ends in Servitude, it is owing to this Neglect. *Cæſar* thought he might do what he had ſeen *Marius* and *Sylla* do before him, and ſo enſlav'd his Country: Whereas, had the Two firſt been hang'd, the Third would, perhaps, never have been.

I bring theſe Examples to prove that Nations ſhould be quick in their Reſentments, and ſevere in their Judgments. As never Nation was more abus'd than our's has been of late by the *Dirty Race* of *Money-Changers*; ſo never Nation could, with a *better Grace*, more *Juſtice*, or *greater Security*, take its full Vengeance, than our's can, upon its *deteſted Foes*. Sometimes the *Greatneſs* and *Popularity* of the Offenders make *ſtrict Juſtice* unadviſeable, becauſe unſafe; but here it is not ſo; you may, at preſent, load all the Gallows's (in *England*) with *DICTATORS* and *Stock-Jobbers*, without the Aſſiſtance of a *Sheriff's Guard*, or ſo much as a *Sigh* from an Old Woman, tho' accuſtom'd perhaps to ſhed Tears at the untimely Demiſe of a Common Felon or Murderer. A thouſand *Stock-Jobbers*, well *truſs'd up*, beſide the diverting Sight, would be a cheap Sacrifice to the *Manes* of Trade; and one certain Expedient to ſoften the Rage of the People; and to convince them that the fu-

ture *Direction* of their Wealth and Eſtates ſhall be put in the Hands of thoſe, who will as effectually ſtudy to promote the General Benefit and Publick Good, as thoſe who have, lately, moſt *infamouſly* ſacrificed Both to their own *private Advantage*. Something is certainly due to both the former. The Reſurrection of Honeſty and Induſtry can never be hop'd for, while this Sort of *Vermin* is ſuffer'd to crawl about, tainting our Air, and putting every Thing out of Courſe; ſubſiſting by Lies, and practiſing vile Tricks, low in their Nature, and miſchievous in their Conſequences.

That a Multitude of Families are ruin'd, and ſuddenly ſunk from plentiful Circumſtances to abject Poverty, is affecting and lamentable; tho' perhaps all owing to their own raſh Confidence in the Management of *known Knaves*: That innocent Children, born, as they imagin'd, to fair Fortunes, and brought up accordingly, muſt now want Bread, or beg it, is a *Cataſtrophe* that muſt pierce every tender Heart, and produce Pity and Tears: But to ſee one's Country labouring under all the ſad Symptoms of Diſtreſs, without the Violence of War, without the diabolical Refinements of able Politicians; but purely from the *Dull Cunning* of inferior Rogues, void of Bravery, void of Abilities; Wretches that would run away in the Field, and be deſpiſed in Aſſemblies; this is what ſhould turn *Pity* into *Rage*, and *Grief* into *Vengeance*.

For

For a Nation to suffer itself to be ill used, is of dangerous Example; whether those that use it ill be its *Neighbours* or its *Natives*: Patience, in this Case, invites fresh Injuries; and that People, who would not bear many unjust Burthens, must not bear one.

A Country, as I said above, ought to do it self Justice with Speed, as well as with Vigour; Delay has often render'd a Cure impossible in the Body Politick, as well as in human Bodies: By Delays, the Edge of Resentment goes off, and the Offender has Leisure to fortify himself by new Rogueries.

I would therefore have my Countrymen take Advantage of the Humour they are in, and make a Virtue of their present Anger. Let them rouze the Bold Spirit of a Free Nation; and shew, by all Lawful and Loyal Means, that they who always scorned to be the Property of TYRANTS, will not be the Prey of STOCK-JOBBERS.

I am, SIR,

My Country's,

And Yours,

CATO.

NUMB. VII.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

I AM naturally led, by what you mentioned in your laſt, relating to our injured Country, to fall in with you upon the ſame Subject. A Man robb'd in his Houſe, or on the Highway, receives from the Law all poſſible Satisfaction: He has the Reſtitution of his Goods again, where it can be made; and he has the Life of the Offender, if he can be apprehended; and then there is a plentiful Reward given for every ſuch Apprehenſion. By this ſalutary Method, Vengeance is at once taken for the Crime committed, and a terrible Example made of its Author, to prevent its Repetition.

The *Law* is the great Rule in every Country, at leaſt in every free Country, by which private Property is aſcertained, and the Publick Good, which is the great End of all Laws, is ſecured; and the religious Obſervance of this Rule, is what alone makes the Difference between good Laws and none. The Terrour and Sanctity of the Laws, are ſhewn by the Execution of them; and to a Contempt of the Laws, or to a direct diſpenſing with them, have been owing moſt of the

Shocks

Shocks and Revolutions, that we have, for many Ages, ſuſtain'd in *England*.

Some Laws are, indeed, unwarily made, being procured by Paſſion, Craft, or Surprize; but ſuch are generally either ſuffered to wax *obſolete*, or are repealed, as we have ſeen in many Inſtances, *and may yet ſee in more*.

But, I ſpeak here of thoſe Laws which have a direct and known Tendency to ſecure to us what we have, and to preſerve us what we are: A free People are kept ſo, by no other Means, but an equal Diſtribution of Property; every Man who has a Share of Property, having a proportionable Share of Power; and the firſt Seeds of *Anarchy*, which, for the moſt part, ends in *Tyranny*, are produced from hence, that ſome are *ungovernably rich*, and many more *miſerably poor*; that is, ſome are Maſters of all the *Means of Oppreſſion*, and others want all the *Means of Self-defence*.

What Progreſs we have lately made, in *England*, towards ſuch a *bleſſed State* of Confuſion and Miſery, by the Credulity of the People, throwing their All upon the Mercy of *baſe-ſpirited, hard-hearted VILLAINS, miſchievouſly truſted* with a Power to undo them, is too manifeſt from the woful Condition we are in: The Ruin is general, and every Man has the miſerable Conſolation to ſee his Neighbour undone; for as to the *Claſs of Ravens*, whoſe Wealth has coſt the Nation

its

its *All*, as they are *manifeſt Enemies* to *God* and *Man*, no Man can call *them his Neighbours*; they are *Rogues of Prey*, they are *Stock-Jobbers*, they are a Conſpiracy of *Stock-Jobbers*: A Name which carries along with it ſuch a deteſtable deadly Image, that it exceeds all humane Invention to aggravate it; nor can Nature, with all her Variety and Stores, furniſh out any Thing to illuſtrate its Deformities by; nay, it gains viſible Advantage by the worſt Compariſons you can make: Your Terrour leſſens, when you liken them to *Crocodiles* and *Cannibals*, who feed, for *Hunger*, on humane Bodies.

Theſe Monſters, therefore, ſtand ſingle in the Creation, they are *Stock-Jobbers*; they have ſerv'd a whole People, as *Satan* ſerv'd *Job*; and ſo far the Devil is injured, by any Analogy you can make between him and them.

Well; but Monſters as they are, what would you do with them? The Anſwer is ſhort and at hand, *Hang them*; for whatever they deſerve, I would have no new Tortures invented, nor any new Death deviſed. In this, I think, I ſhew Moderation; let them only be *hang'd*, but *hang'd ſpeedily*: As to their *Wealth*, as it is the *manifeſt Plunder* of the People, let it be reſtored to the *People*, and let the Publick be their Heirs. The only Method by which the Publick is ever like to get *Millions* by them, or indeed any Thing.

But

But ſay ſome, when did you ever ſee Rogues, covered with Wealth, brought to the Ax or the Gallows? I own the Example is rare, more is the Shame of this Nation, which has had ſuch rich Temptations, and ſuch frequent Opportunities; we have had publick Guilt in abundance, *God knows*, often protected by *Party*, and often by *Money*. *Faction* on one Side, and *Riches* on the other, have, as it were, made a *Lane* for great Criminals to eſcape. But all theſe Eſcapes, which are, indeed, our Reproach, cannot give any Ground to fear a preſent one.

This Nation has formerly been bought and ſold; but Arts were uſed to blind the Peoples Eyes, and the Effects of the Treachery were not immediately felt; and we know that the Reſentment of the Vulgar never follows from their *Underſtanding*, or their *Reflection*, but from their *Feeling*: A Pick-pocket may tickle a plain Fellow's Ear, till he has got his Purſe, but if he *feels* it going, he will knock the Thief down.

We have felt our Pockets pick'd, and we know who have done it. *Vengeance abides them.* I am told, ſome of them *have the Face to pretend*, that they ought not to be put to death; but we hope the Legiſlature will *effectually* convince them, that this their Partiality to themſelves is groundleſs: All their Hopes of Safety muſt conſiſt in their Money; and without Queſtion, they will try to make

the Wages of their Villany protect their Villany: But I cannot see how any Sums can save them; for as they have robb'd and cheated all Men, *except their Accomplices*, so all Men are concerned to see Justice done to themselves; and if the ordinary Channels of Justice could be stop'd by Bags of Money, or by Partnership in original Guilt, *which Evil we do not apprehend*, the enrag'd, the abus'd People, might be prompted by their uppermost Passion, and having their Resentment heightened by Disappointment, might, *it is to be feared*, have recourse to *extraordinary Ways*; Ways that are often *successful*, tho' never *justifiable*.

Here are no Parties in this Case to disguise Truth, and obstruct Justice; the Calamity is general, and so is the Resentment; All are *Sufferers*; All will be *Prosecutors*. The Cry for Justice is loud and united; if it be baulked, I can prophesy no good from so cruel an Omission.

If this mighty, this destructive Guilt, were to find Impunity, nothing remains, but that every Villain of a daring, or avaricious Spirit, may grow a Great Rogue, in order to be a Great Man: When a People can no longer expect Redress of publick and heavy Evils, nor Satisfaction from publick and bitter Injuries, hideous is the Prospect they have before them. If they will tamely suffer a Fall from Plenty to Beggary, they may soon expect another, and a worse, from that to *Slavery*; *but I hope better Things of England.* I have

I have before my Eyes *a wise beneficent Prince, a generous and publick spirited Parliament*, an *able disinterested Ministry*; all contending with each other for the Wealth, the Glory, the Liberty of their Country: And I have before my Eyes *a brave and honest People, Lovers* of *Trade* and *Industry, free* of their Money, and *well deserving* of the Legislature, *passionate* for Liberty, and *Haters* of Chains; but *deluded, drained* of their Money, and abused beyond Patience, beyond Expression, by *mean Sharpers*, that swagger in the Plunder of their Country.

Where therefore there is so much Capacity, and there are so many good Dispositions to help us on one Side; such loud and melancholy Calls, for that Help, on another Side; and such open, such execrable, such publick Crimes from a third Quarter; we may hope every Thing from the speedy Meeting of the *King and Parliament*. They are our *PROTECTORS*, and *we trust they do not bear the Sword in vain*.

I doubt not but many Schemes will be laid before them, some of them designed for a Source of new Rogueries, and to prevent Enquiries into the old ones. It shall be the Business therefore of this Paper, to watch and examine such Schemes, and to condemn them, or recommend them, just as they deserve.

I have, Sir, in this, as you did in your last, taken the Guilt of our *Traytors* for granted, as

I think all Men do: But becauſe they ſhall have all fair Play, I undertake hereafter, if it is found neceſſary, to *prove it*, by an Induction of Particulars. And I will promiſe them, out of the great Love I bear them, that as long as I continue to ſend you theſe Letters, and you to publiſh them, they ſhall find in them ſomething of more Weight, than in the poor and feeble Jeſts of *common News Writers*.

I am, SIR, *&c.*

Gordon

BRITANNICUS.

NUMB. VIII.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

I Find you are fairly enter'd, and, like an honeſt Man, ſeem to have the publick Good, and the Intereſt of your Country ſincerely at Heart, ſeparate from all other Views whatever: In this noble Undertaking you need not fear the Aſſiſtance of every generous Mind in the Kingdom; and I doubt not but you, in ſome Meaſure, experience what I ſay to be juſt, by the daily Help you receive: We look

look now to you alone, to repreſent, in this publick Manner, the Grievances we are under, and we depend upon your diſcharging the Truſt repoſed in you with Integrity and Honour.

All Men are now taught, by miſerable Experience, that the Project of the *South-Sea*, through the hard-hearted Knavery of ſome, who have been in the Direction of it; and through the Folly, or rather Diſtraction of the People, has not anſwer'd the good and wiſe Ends deſign'd by the Parliament; but inſtead of that, has ruin'd Thouſands of innocent and well-meaning People, to glut *Harpies* and *Publick Robbers* with Millions: *Unhappy Fate of poor* England, *worthy of a better! For This*, Trade has been neglected; *for This*, Induſtry diſcourag'd; *for This*, Honeſty abandon'd; *for This*, Credit undone, and all that *Stock-Jobbers* might make Fortunes, and ſmall Sharpers grow mighty Men.

Every one, therefore, ſeems to agree, that ſomething is neceſſary to be done, in a legal Way, to reſtore, once more, our Publick Credit. But it is hop'd we are far from conſenting that any Thing ought to be done, to repair the Loſſes occaſion'd by Folly and Covetouſneſs, out of the Eſtates of thoſe, who always foreſaw, and always oppos'd this mighty Miſchief, much leſs, at the further Expence of the Honour and Trade of the Nation.

To

To ſet this Matter in a due Light, it is neceſſary to enquire what is meant by the Publick Credit of a Nation.

Firſt, Credit may be ſaid to run high, when the Commodities of a Nation find a ready Vent, are ſold at a good Price, and when Dealers may be ſafely truſted with them, with a reaſonable Aſſurance of being paid.

Secondly, When Lands and Houſes find ready Purchaſers, and when Money is to be borrow'd at low Intereſt, in order to carry on Trade and Manufacture, at ſuch Rates, as may enable us to underſell our Neighbours.

Thirdly, When People think it ſafe and advantageous to venture large Stocks in Trade and Dealing, and do not lock up their Money in Cheſts, or hide it under-ground. And,

Fourthly, When Notes, Mortgages, and Publick and Private Security will paſs for Money, or eaſily procure Money, by ſelling for as much Silver and Gold as they are Security for; which can never happen, but upon a Preſumption, that the ſame Money may be had for them again.

In all theſe Caſes, 'tis abundantly the Intereſt of a Nation, to promote Credit and mutual Confidence; and the only poſſible Way in Nature, effectually to do this, is to maintain *Publick Honour* and *Honeſty*; to provide ready Remedies for private *Injuſtice* and *Oppreſſion*, and

and to protect the Innocent and Helpleſs from being devour'd by Fraud and Rapine.

But National Credit can never be ſupported by lending Money without Security, or drawing in other People to do ſo; by raiſing Stocks and Commodities, by Artifice and Fraud, to unnatural and imaginary Values; and conſequently delivering up helpleſs Women and Orphans, and the ignorant and unwary, but *induſtrious Subject*, to be devour'd by *Pick-Pockets* and *Stock-Jobbers*: A ſort of Vermin that are bred and nouriſh'd in the Corruption of a State.

This is a Method, which, inſtead of preſerving Publick Credit, deſtroys all Property, turns the Stock and Wealth of a Nation out of its proper Channels, and inſtead of nouriſhing the Body Politick, produces only *Ulcers*, *Eruptions*, and often *Epidemical Plague-Sores*: It ſtarves the Poor, deſtroys Manufactures, ruins our Navigation, and raiſes Inſurrections, *&c.*

The firſt Loſs is always the leaſt; one half of the Nation is ruin'd already; I hope we may learn Wit from our Misfortunes, and ſave the other half: In order to this, we may expect, that no new Projects will be countenanc'd or receiv'd, which have any Tendency to prejudice Trade, or which cauſe Monopolies, or ſet up excluſive Companies; and that no Privileges or Advantages be granted, for which ready Money might be got.

Some

Some People have the Aſſurance to publiſh it, for Example, that a certain Set of *Stock-Jobbers*, whoſe Faith and Modeſty are now well known and *felt*, expect, among other Gifts, from the Publick, that the Iſland of *St. Chriſtophers* ſhould be given them, *as a further Expedient to get more Wealth to themſelves, and leave the Nation none*: Now *St. Chriſtophers* is worth *three hundred thouſand Pounds Sterling*, and will yield ſo much; ſo that to preſent them with this Iſland, would be juſt making them a Preſent of *three hundred thouſand Pounds*; a Sum *almoſt* ſufficient to make the Fortune of *an Under South-Sea Clerk*; but ſuch a Sum as this poor Nation cannot, at preſent, ſpare.

I hope, therefore, that it will no longer be impudently alledg'd, that by parting with ſuch Gifts, we loſe nothing; ſince that alone is worth nothing, for which nothing can be got: But the Caſe is otherwiſe here; and from the Nature of our publick Gaming, and the Spirit of the worthy Sharpers who direct it, I dare pronounce before-hand, that every Scheme that they themſelves propoſe, to make their Bubble and their Roguery thrive again, will ſtill be built upon the further Expence, and further Loſs and Miſery of theſe unhappy Nations.

If our Money is gone, *thank God*, our Eyes are left; and ſharpen'd by Experience and Adverſities,

verſities, we can ſee through Diſguiſes, and will be no more amaz'd with Moon-ſhine.

The Nation and Parliament has been abus'd, and they will undoubtedly be reveng'd; they will not be put off with dark juggling, and knaviſh Projects, to ſtifle Reſentments, and divert due Vengeance: There's no attending to any new Schemes, till the *Publick Robbers* are puniſh'd, with whom there can never be any Accommodation.

To begin then, in the firſt Place, with the Criminals, will ſhew that we are in earneſt Champions for Honeſty, for Trade, and for the Nation, all oppreſs'd by *Money-Leeches*: All other Remedies may be but Mountebank Remedies: It would be Madneſs to concert new Schemes, liable to new Abuſes, without firſt doing Juſtice to the *Abuſers* of the old; Impunity for paſt Crimes is a Warrant to commit more, eſpecially when they are gainful.

Such mighty Miſchiefs as theſe Men have done, will be but meanly atoned for, by ſuch infamous Lives, unleſs their Eſtates are alſo confiſcated; and even theſe, *great as they are*, will repair but Part of our Misfortunes. But what we can have of them, let us have; their Necks and their Money.

To begin with any other Project, they will take for a Confeſſion, that there is a Deſign to ſave them; and to what that muſt be owing, we all know; and what further Evils it may produce, may even ſurpaſs our Fears, tho' al-

ready terribly great: But a Method of Justice presently enter'd upon, and impartially carried thro', will give us Patience under our Burdens, banish all our Fears, give Credit to the Publick Proceedings, and restore Hope to the almost despairing People.

I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

Gordon. CATO.

NUMB. IX.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

THIS great Nation, undone by despicable *Stock-Jobbers* and their *Abettors*, has hitherto quietly groan'd under the mercileſs Hands of its Pillagers, and liv'd for ſome Months upon the pure Hopes of *Redreſs*. We look'd towards the Parliament: *His Majeſty and his Miniſtry being abſent, and buſy'd with the Affairs of this Kingdom abroad, and in the glorious Aims of ſettling the Peace of* Europe, *and ſtrengthning the Proteſtant Intereſt.*

The

The first Part of our Hopes is now almost accomplish'd, the Parliament are just upon meeting, and never, sure, did any Session open with greater Expectation, or more to do: Every Thing is turn'd *Topsy Turvy*; and the Nation, thrown into Convulsions, is waiting for the healing Hand of its *Representatives*.

Many Expedients will, no doubt, be offer'd *without Doors*; calculated, in Appearance, to improve the Stock; but, in reality, design'd to save the *DI------RS*. This is to begin at the wrong End. To pretend to form Schemes for the encreasing of *Credit*, before the *Destroyers*, the *Cannibals* of Credit, are honestly and openly hung up to its *Manes*, is, in some sort, to confess, that we had our Instructions and Politics from the Criminals themselves; *and our best and only Reasons out of their Purses*.

Or if we are not thus wicked, we would, at best, be miserably weak to fall into such a preposterous Method; and whether great and general Calamities have their Root in *Roguery* or *Folly*, is all one to a Nation.

In spight of all the Remedies that can be apply'd, Multitudes will still remain undone beyond all Remedy: Nay, for ought I can see, there is no practical Remedy at all for what is past, so effectual has been the Roguery on one Side, and so rivetted is the Ruin on the other.

All therefore, that ſeems to me to be left, even to the united Wiſdom of *Great Britain*, is the *Cure of Prevention*, to ſtop the Progreſs of the Contagion, to take Care that thoſe which have already ſuffer'd, ſhall ſuffer no more, nor make new Sufferers: It is certain that all Men have ſuffer'd in ſome Senſe or other, *the Criminals excepted*. It is hop'd that the miſerable People will now be honour'd with *Their* good Company; and that *the Box on the Ear*, which wantonly began from them, will in good earneſt be returned to them, and end with them. It is ſome Conſolation to the Inhabitants of a Village, who have been bit all round by a mad Dog, to ſee the *DIRECTOR* of the Poyſon, and the Author of their Pain and Danger, honeſtly hung up, or knock'd on the Head.

The prevailing Woe which has long rag'd, and ſtill ſits hard and heavy upon us, has certainly ſome Authors, and the *D*------ſ are generally taken to be theſe Authors; and if they are duly and publickly puniſh'd, they will continue to be taken for the *only Authors*. But if there is nothing done to them, or nothing effectually done to them, we ſhall naturally look further, and make bold to know, that tho' they have been Rogues, yet that others have been greater than they, that others have *directed* the *D*-----ſ, and were Partners in the Spoil.

But

But if they ſtand ſingle, and are found the *only* and *original* Plunderers of their Country, they will infallibly be given up to publick and crying Vengeance; not only by the Rules of Guilt, but of good Policy. A more popular Thing cannot be done, nor indeed ſo popular a Thing. The Bleſſings of the People, and the univerſal Affections of *Great Britain*, will be ſome of the Rewards attending upon thoſe, who will be the generous Authors of Publick Juſtice, upon the deteſtable Authors of Publick and Intenſe Miſery.

I will never ſuppoſe that any Men, or even one Man in any publick Station, did by any Means *join* with *Stock-Jobbers* to undo their Country; much leſs *enabled Stock-Jobbers* to undo their Country; and ſupported them while they were about it. But it would be melancholy and terrible, indeed, to imagine that any publick Men, at leaſt, any Man concern'd in the *Finances*, or ſet over any Part of the Publick Money, by which Publick Credit is circulated and ſuſtained, ſhould, in Defiance of his Publick Truſt, put himſelf at the Head of a Conſpiracy of *Stock-Jobbers*, who were with mercileſs and unclean Hands rifling the Publick itſelf, engroſſing all its Wealth, and deſtroying, at once, all publick and private Faith.

Such

Such unprecedented Treachery, such overgrown Guilt, can never be suppos'd. Our Corruptions cannot be yet become so bold and bare-fac'd, nor we so tame. The Thing, therefore, by being so very monstrous, must be impossible, whatsoever Suggestions there may be to the contrary; which, were they true, could not fail of calling down double and conspicuous Punishment upon such a *Verres*.

As to those, who lately encouraged a Scheme, out of an honest Purpose to relieve the Publick, and pay off its Debts, they ought, and, no doubt, will be the first and the most active to revenge the Publick upon those, who, instead of relieving it, have brought the Publick into such doleful and dying Distress.

By this, they will further evince the Honesty of that Purpose, and merit still more to conduct our Affairs; and which will undoubtedly be remembred by the honest Free-holders of *England* at a proper Season in their Favour: Our Eyes are upon them; our Confidence is in them, and we wish them good Success in this great Tryal of Integrity and publick Spirit.

I foresee that there will be many who will be loud in their Call for Publick Justice, and yet be the first to prevent it. Their Avarice will *arm* their Tongues with Zeal, and a proper

per Preſent *diſarm* it of its Eloquence. However, the Outſide of publick Spirit will ſtill be kept on; they will be ſure to cry out to the laſt for Puniſhment, for ſevere Puniſhment; but they will be as ſure to find fault with every Expedient propoſed for inflicting it. I could name ſome worthy Patriots, of *many Words*, and *great Weight*, who will act this Farce rarely. It will not be the firſt time ——. What is humane Life, but a Maſquerade! and what is civil Society, but a mock Alliance between Hypocriſy and Credulity!

Magna & miſera Civitas, eodem anno tantas injurias tantumq; pudorem paſſa, inter Vinios, Fabios, Icelos, Aſiaticos, *varia & pudenda ſorte agebat; donec ſucceſſere* Mucianus, *&* Marcellus, *& magis alii homines quam alii mores.*

Theſe are the Words of a great *Ancient*, ſignal for his Wiſdom and ſtrong Obſervations: Had he liv'd now, and written in Engliſh, he would have writen thus.

Oh London! *Oh* England! *Oh my Country! How great! and yet how miſerable! What Reproach, what Calamities, what Ruin haſt thou ſuſtain'd? Suſtain'd, in the Space of one ſhort Year; leſs than a Year! Suſtain'd from the Dregs of humane Kind! From Fellows, vile in their Original; and as to their Spirit, Slaves! What opprobrious Deluſions, what deadly Revolutions haſt thou ſuffered to be brought upon thee, by the ignoble Names, and ſervile Hands of B——t, L——b——,*

L----b--, H-----h, and the like Scum of the Vulgar! And after all this, art Thou not yet weary, O my Country! of thy own Shame? Not yet satiated with Devastation and Havock? And wilt Thou yet again try the old Knavery *managed by* new Knaves?

You may expect, Sir, to hear from me again next Week upon this fruitful Subject; and for the future, till every Ear is alarm'd with the *Villany*, and every Heart detests the *Villains*, *how great soever*, that have been the Cause of our Destruction.

I am, SIR,

Gordon *The Lover of my Country.*

Numb. X.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

THIS worth Obſervation, that no Experience or Sufferings can cure the World of its Credulity. It has been a Bubble from the Beginning; nor is it a bit wiſer for this Diſcovery, but ſtill runs into old Snares, if they have but new Names, and often whether they have or no.

Self-Love beguiles Men into falſe Hopes, and they will venture to incur a hundred probable Evils, to catch one poſſible Good; nay, they run frequently into diſtracted Pains and Expences to gain Advantages, which are purely imaginary, and utterly impoſſible.

Were the Paſſions properly balanced, Men would act rationally; but by ſuffering one Paſſion to get the better of all the reſt, they act madly or ridiculouſly.

Our prevailing Paſſions in *England*, of late, have been *Hope*, *Avarice*, and *Ambition*, which have had ſuch a headlong Force upon the People, that they are become wretched and poor, by a ravenous Appetite to grow great and rich. Our Fear and Caution were poſtponed, and by a ſanguine Struggle for what we had not, we loſt what we had. Could ſuch *Courage* be in-

ſpired by Stock-jobbing? A cowardly Science of mean Tricks and Lyes!

Every Adventurer in this mighty Lottery, foreſaw that many muſt be Loſers, and that was got by one muſt be loſt by another; but every Man *hoped* that Fate would be kinder to him in particular, than to a thouſand others; and ſo this mad *Hope* became general, as are the Calamities which it has produced.

This ſhews the little Power that Reaſon and Truth have over the Paſſions of Men, when they run high. In the late Revolution in the *Alley*, Figures and Demonſtration *would* have told them, and the DIRECTORS *could* have told them, that it was all *Phrenzy*; and that they were purſuing guilded Clouds, the Compoſition of Vapour and a little Sunſhine; both fleeting Apparitions! Common Senſe could have told them, that Credit is the moſt uncertain and moſt fluctuating Thing in the World, eſpecially when it is applied to Stock-Jobbing; that it had long before been exalted higher than it could well ſtand, even before it was come to fifty above *Par*, and therefore always tottered, and was always tumbling down at every little Accident and Rumour. A Story of a *Spaniſh Frigate*, or of a few Thieves in the dark *Dens* of the *Highlands*, or the *Sickneſs* of a foreign Prince, or the *Saying* of a Broker in a Coffee-Houſe; all, or any of theſe contemptible Cauſes were able to reduce that *ſame Credit* into a very ſlender Figure, and ſometimes within her old Bounds: But particularly they might have

ſeen, that it was now mounted to ſuch an outragious Height, as all the Silver and Gold in *Europe* could not ſupport; and therefore when People came in any conſiderable Number to ſell, (and to ſell was the whole End of their buying) it would have a dreadful Fall, even to the cruſhing of the Nation. This has ſince dolefully happened: Our *Hopes*, which were our Ruin, are gone; and now we behold nothing but the Face of the Mourner.

But in ſpight of all this Miſchief, produced by Credulity, by manifeſt and ill-grounded Credulity, it is much to be feared that ſome little Art, and big Promiſes, would make us repeat it, and grow mad again. This ſeems evident, not only from the Folly and Feebleneſs of humane Nature, ever the Prey of Craft, and ever caught with Shadows; but from our endleſs Gaping after new Projects, and our Eagerneſs to run into them. We have been bruiſed in a Mortar, but we are not wiſer; while one Ruin is yet upon us, we are panting after another, perhaps work'd up by the ſame Hands, or by other Hands with the ſame Views.

O the Weakneſs and Folly of Man! it is like a Whirlpool, which deſtroys and drowns not by *Halves*, but when a *Part* is drawn in, the *Whole* follows.

Surely the Pleaſure is as great,
Of being cheated, as to cheat!

Elſe Men would not be ſuch *Dupes*, as every where they are; whoever would catch Mankind, has nothing to do, but to throw out a

Bait to their Paſſions, and infallibly they are his Property. This Secret is well known to corrupt Courts, and their crafty Agents, who flatter or frighten their obeying believing Vaſſals into all the Exceſſes of Miſery and Obeiſance. By This, Standing Armies have been maintained; by This, wild Wars have been waged; and by This, an idle, expenſive, abſurd, and cruel *Popiſh Hierarchy* has been ſupported.

Once more, O wretched Man! Thou willing Inſtrument of thy own Bondage and Deluſion; even Mountebanks know this Secret of cajoling thee, and picking thy Pocket; and worſe than Mountebanks, *Stock-Jobbers* know it.

When a People are undone, it is ſome Conſolation to reflect, that they had no hand in their own Ruin, or did all they could to prevent it, by the beſt Counſels they could take, or by the braveſt Defence they could make. But alas, poor *England!* thou haſt not that Conſolation. Thou haſt not fallen by able Traytors; thou art not the Victim of deep Deſign, or artful Treaſon; nor art thou the Price of Victory in the Field; neither art thou outwitted by the ſubtle Dealers in Myſtery and Diſtinction; nor in this Inſtance deceived by their falſe Alarms.

No, we have no ſuch palliating Reflection to reconcile us to our Miſery, or to abate its Pangs: To our deathleſs Shame, we are the Conqueſt, the Purchaſe of *Stock-Jobbers*. The *Britiſh Lions* crouch to a *Neſt of Owls!* Can we ſurvive the Remembrance without Revenge?

But

But all this is complaining, will ſome ſay; and we want Remedies rather than Complaints: To bewail our Calamities, is indeed natural, but to extricate our ſelves out of them, is neceſſary. Here are *Two Hundred Millions* of *Imaginary* Property loſt, and at leaſt *Twenty Millions* of *Real* Property plundered from the honeſt and induſtrious, and given to Sharpers and Pick-pockets: Shall theſe *Rooks* be ſuffered to enjoy it? and ſhall the Bubbles be redreſſed out of other Mens Eſtates, no wiſe chargeable with the Miſchief? or muſt we proſtitute the publick Honour of the Nation to draw in other People (no way concerned) to take the bold Bargains of raſh Men and *Dupes* off their Hands? But if none of theſe Methods are taken, our Cullies muſt ſet down with their Loſs, or the Traytors be forced to diſgorge.

If we make new Schemes, or diverſify the old, till Doom's-Day, there will be no paying *Twenty Millions* without *Twenty Millions*, or without what is Equivalent to *Twenty Millions*, which will be the ſame thing to the Nation as the parting with *Twenty Millions*.

The Payment therefore will either be a real Payment, or a ſham Payment; and in this Caſe, if *caveat emptor*, (*let the Buyer look to it*) be a good general Rule in the Buſineſs of Bargains and Sale, it will be a good Rule here too.

If we have any *State-Chymiſts*, who have Art enough to make Millions evaporate into Smoak, yet I muſt beg leave to doubt their Skill at conſolidating Smoak into Gold.

I hope

I hope I ſhall not be underſtood, by what I have ſaid, to oppoſe an Attempt to redeem us out of our preſent wretched Condition. On the contrary, I ſhall be the firſt to Vote that Man a Statue of Gold, who can ſtrike out an honeſt and skilful Expedient for our Recovery, which I own is far paſt my own Skill. I am no Candidate for the Golden Statue.

By all this, I would only caution my Countrymen not to be caught again; let them beware of new *Snares:* As to the Loſers, they have not a great deal to expect; and I can ſay no more to them here than that in Countries where the Plague rages, the Preſervation of the *Whole* is the principal Care; the Infected are for the moſt part left to take Care of themſelves; and I never heard it ſuggeſted that Nine Millions of People ought to be expoſed to the mortal Contagion of that Diſtemper, to preſerve a few Individuals.

I am, Sir, Yours,

CICERO.

NUMB. XI.

To the Author of the London Journal.

SIR,

BEware *of the firſt Step*, will be allowed by all Men, who have any Skill in humane Affairs, to be a commendable Caution in all Proceedings of Moment. In how many Inſtances do we ſee, that Things which begin plauſibly, end tragically? People have

have been often enſlaved by Princes created by themſelves for their Protection, and often butchered by Armies raiſed by themſelves for their Defence. The late *French* King, whenever he was going to ſhed the Blood of his People, in any wanton War, tho' undertaken to gratify his Luſt of Power, or to exalt his own Houſe, never failed to let them know, in an Edict made on purpoſe, that it was all for their own Good and Proſperity; that is, they were to ſuffer Slaughter abroad, and Oppreſſion and Famine at home, purely for their own Advantage and Felicity.

General Propoſitions are, for the moſt Part, dangerous, and intended to ſupport Conſequences, which at firſt View, they do not ſeem to mean and imply. They are, therefore, generally plauſible in Appearance, to catch Conſent; from which Conſent, when it is once got, new Advantages are taken, which were not foreſeen, and freſh Articles are added which were not known to be decided.

In the late long War with *France*, what was more deſirable, what more plauſible than *Peace?* A Bleſſing ſo univerſally underſtood to be one, that the loweſt Vulgar wanted no Words nor Perſuaſions to know its Excellency! And when we were inſulted with this Queſtion, *What, will you not treat?* To have ſaid *No*, would have been an Anſwer ſo invidious, that ſcarce any Man durſt make it; and yet all wiſe Men then knew, that to conſent to a Treaty at that Time with *France*, conſidering the Perſons

ſons and their Intereſts who were to manage it, was to conſent to a Conſpiracy againſt *England* in particular, and to plot againſt all *Europe* in general: We were ſtun'd with the Word PEACE, nor could we ſtand it, tho' we knew it was hatching TREASON. In ſhort, to *Treat*, as ſoft a Phraſe as it was, ſignified neither more nor leſs, than to give to *old Lewis* his wicked Will of all *Europe*, and to the *Tories* their *Pretender*.

Take another Inſtance. In the preſent *Spaniſh* War, which, we are aſſured, wants nothing but a Form to conclude it, we cannot forget the loud Atteſtations, that were every where given us, *That to declare War was ſufficient* alone *to end the War, and frighten the Spaniards into a Peace:* And who, among us, would not willingly be at the Expence of a Piece of Paper, and of the *Heralds* Lungs, to ſcare a turbulent and underſtanding Court, as was that of *Philip*, into Moderation and Quietneſs? But the Obſtinacy of *Spain*, the Length of that War, our great Charge in Men and Money to ſupport it, and the Condition of our Fleet, worn in the Service of our Allies, or eaten by Worms in the *Mediterranean*, are all ſufficient Leſſons to us, how little we ought to have truſted to ſuch Aſſurances, or to the Word of thoſe that gave them.

Take a third Inſtance. Upon the eſtabliſhing of the preſent *Eaſt India* Company, it was reaſonably urged, that ſuch a Company would be no other than a Confederacy of cunning Fellows

lows against fair and general Trading, by monopolizing to a few, the sole Traffick and Riches of a great Continent. To which it was answered, that there was no such Design; but that every Man who would subscribe his Name in their Books, and comply with some easy Conditions, would be frankly admitted to share in their Trade: But this was all Hypocrisy or Lying; for no sooner had the *Projectors*, by such petty Pretences to publick Honesty, got the better of Opposition, and cook'd up their Project, but it was found that their Trade was impracticable to all but themselves: Every Trader was obliged to come into the Joint Stock; and all Attempts since, for the publick Good, have proved ineffectual against so formidable a Society.

We have a fourth Instance from the first Institution of the *South-Sea*. It was at first pretended, that every Proprietor was to have 6 *per Cent.* for his Money, without Trouble or Deductions, and need not engage in the Trade, unless he chose: This drew in a great Multitude to vouch for the Scheme, and encourage it; but in passing the Bill, it was found that the crafty *Managers* had lopt off one *per Cent.* to be applied, as they pretended, to carry on the Trade of the Company, and all were obliged to join in the Chimerical Assiento; by which they have since pillaged the Proprietors of a Million and a half——*See the vast Advantage of losing by Trade.* A Secret well known to the Directors!

A fifth Instance may be taken from the same

South-Sea. What a rare Sugar Plumb to the Nation, was a Scheme ſo finely calculated to pay off the Nation's Debts! What a tempting Bait was here! Even thoſe who ſaw whither it miſchievouſly tended, and perceived the deceitful Hook under it, could not ſtand the Scorn and Rebukes of the Many, who ſwallowed it without ſeeing it. What fatal Devaſtation and Poverty it has ſince produced, by the unparallel'd Treachery of the *D—rs*, and ſome that are worſe than they, the miſerable People feel much more ſenſibly than I can expreſs, pierced as they are with the keen Arrows of mercileſs Villany, and unrelenting Diſtreſs. We have undone our ſelves to pay our Debts, and our Debts are not paid. What ſhall I ſay? We had once Bread, Money, and publick Faith: But now! What remains to us? I cannot anſwer.——Our Grief, our Folly, our Loſſes, our Diſhonour, our cruel Uſage, are too big for Words.

I have ſaid ſo much, to prove how wary we ought to be in going into *new Schemes*. We ought at leaſt to know the whole of them before we conſent to a Part. It will behove us to have too an Eye to the Quarter from whence they come; whether they be Directors, or their Maſters, and Confederates; or Men of fair and upright Characters, whoſe Souls are *honeſt*, and their *Hands clean*. As to thoſe, who are known to have promoted the mighty Cheat, and the Ruin of their Country; their Infamy is ſo glaring, that, ſince they will not have Modeſty and Remorſe enough to hold their Tongues, and to for-

forbear medling with the Concerns of a People beggared by them, we ought to mind no more what they ſay, than the Judge did the *Houſe-breaker*, who upon his Trial, told his Lordſhip, that he *would ſwear the Peace againſt him, for putting him in fear of his Life.*

The ſame may be ſaid of thoſe that are fallen in with the Guilty, and *unexpectedly* ſpeak the ſame Note. We gueſs at their Motives. The powerful Getters would ſave themſelves, by letting others get as much, and perhaps are glad to divide their Gains to eſcape Puniſhment.

If any Man would be the unſuſpected and fair Author of a new Project, he can recommend it and himſelf no better, than by ſhewing it to be honeſtly conſiſtent with the Puniſhment of our *Million Knaves*, the *Blood-ſuckers* of *England*. A new Scheme, and an Inquiſition into the Management of the old one, may both ſucceſsfully go on at the ſame time; and they who ſay they *cannot*, do but own they are afraid *they ſhould*. Are they conſcious to themſelves that the *D———rs* may hope to eſcape Part of their Puniſhment, by fathering upon others a great Share of their Guilt, or rather the firſt Power of being Guilty?

What mean ſome Men by ſaying, we ought to extinguiſh the Fire, before we enquire into the Incendiaries? Are they ſome of them? Or did they furniſh out *Brands* to the reſt? Or would they give them time to run away? The Truth is, the Houſe is already burn'd down, many are burn'd to Death, and all are miſerably ſcorch'd:

ſcorch'd: The Flame has in a manner waſted it ſelf; but thoſe that talk thus, ſeem eager to revive it, by new Devices to ſtir the Embers. All we can now do, is to build the Houſe again, if we can; and hang thoſe that fired it, which we are ſure we ought. Beſides; we have long known who did it, they have been taken in the Fact at Noon-day, and every Day. *This Thing was not done in a Corner*, nor at once, nor by one; the Villany was deliberate, gradual and open.

Theſe Gentlemen do however confeſs, that the Houſe has been ſet on fire; which Confeſſion they would doubtleſs be glad to avoid, if they could: But the Miſery is ſorely felt, and all *Europe* are Witneſſes of it. Can they therefore, after an Acknowledgment that the Nation has been burn'd, have the Face to be contriving Ways to delay the Puniſhment of the Burners? Has Self-love no Share in this? And by the Delay of the Puniſhment of others, do they not as good as avow that they tremble for themſelves? For my part, I can ſee no Difference in this Caſe, between delaying it, and fruſtrating it.

The Expedients for retrieving us, if we can be retrieved, are certainly compatible with Expedients for revenging us; and the latter will facilitate the former. It will give Life to the poor Bankrupt Heart-broken People, if they ſee that their Deſtroyers meet due Vengeance, and that they are like to be no more the Prey of daring Parricides.

I am, Sir, your old Friend,

CATO.

Gordon